

# **Senate File 258 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 258  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1056)

## **A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to eligibility requirements for the gap tuition  
2 assistance program.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 260I.3, subsection 2, Code 2015, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. a. Eligibility for tuition assistance under this chapter  
4 shall be based on financial need. Criteria to be assessed in  
5 determining financial need shall include but is not limited to:

6 ~~a.~~ (1) The applicant's family income for the ~~twelve~~ six  
7 months prior to the date of application.

8 ~~b.~~ (2) The applicant's family size.

9 ~~c.~~ (3) The applicant's county of residence.

10 b. An applicant approved for assistance under the  
11 supplemental nutrition assistance program at the time of  
12 application for assistance under this chapter shall be  
13 deemed to have met the financial need requirements under this  
14 subsection.

15 Sec. 2. Section 260I.4, Code 2015, is amended by adding the  
16 following new subsections:

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. Persons earning incomes between  
18 one hundred fifty percent and two hundred fifty percent,  
19 both percentages inclusive, of the federal poverty level as  
20 defined by the most recently revised poverty income guidelines  
21 published by the United States department of health and human  
22 services shall be given first priority for tuition assistance  
23 under this chapter. Persons earning incomes below one hundred  
24 fifty percent of the federal poverty level shall be given  
25 second priority for tuition assistance under this chapter.

26 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. A person who is eligible for financial  
27 assistance pursuant to the federal Workforce Investment Act of  
28 1998, Pub. L. No. 105-220, or the federal Workforce Innovation  
29 and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, shall be ineligible  
30 for tuition assistance under this chapter unless such funds  
31 budgeted for training assistance for the adult, dislocated  
32 worker, or youth programs have been fully expended by a  
33 workforce region.

34 EXPLANATION

35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2       This bill relates to eligibility requirements for the gap  
3 tuition assistance program, which provides funding to community  
4 colleges for need-based tuition assistance to applicants to  
5 enable completion of continuing education certificate training  
6 programs for in-demand occupations.

7       The bill changes one of the financial need criteria for the  
8 program to the applicant's family income for the six months  
9 prior to the date of application. Currently, the period for  
10 the criterion is 12 months.

11      The bill provides that an applicant approved for assistance  
12 under the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program  
13 at the time of application for tuition assistance shall be  
14 deemed to have met the financial need requirements for tuition  
15 assistance.

16      Eligibility for tuition assistance is currently limited to  
17 persons earning incomes at or below 250 percent of the federal  
18 poverty level as defined by the most recently revised poverty  
19 income guidelines published by the United States department  
20 of health and human services. The bill provides that persons  
21 earning incomes between 150 percent and 250 percent, both  
22 percentages inclusive, of the federal poverty level shall be  
23 given first priority for tuition assistance. The bill provides  
24 that persons earning incomes below 150 percent of the federal  
25 poverty level shall be given second priority for tuition  
26 assistance.

27      The bill also provides that a person who is eligible  
28 for financial assistance pursuant to the federal Workforce  
29 Investment Act of 1998 or the federal Workforce Innovation and  
30 Opportunity Act shall be ineligible for tuition assistance  
31 unless such funds budgeted for training assistance for the  
32 adult, dislocated worker, or youth programs have been fully  
33 expended by a workforce region.